



BERKLEY

Bristol County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The notably stony soil of Berkley did not discourage the early settlers of the community who did some shipbuilding but essentially concentrated on agriculture. The town is still rural in character, and has retained much of its 18th century landscape.

Berkley was a well known Indian settlement area because of the rich shellfish and water fowl resources to be found there. These and the woodlands in the town also drew the first European settlers. But the town was abandoned by residents because of its vulnerability to Indian or French attack at the outbreak of King Philip's war, when townspeople sought shelter and safety in Taunton. These wars delayed development of the community, as did the lack of water power to fuel the industrial mills of Colonial times. However, there were sufficient clay deposits to stimulate a small pottery industry for a time.

Still a small, rural community, Berkley is well loved by its residents for its peacefulness and its reminders of the past, among which is the Berkley-Dighton Bridge, possibly the oldest swing span bridge in the state.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Dighton on the west, Taunton on the north, Lakeville on the east, and Freetown on the south. Berkley is 12 miles north of Fall River; 42 miles south of Boston; 21 miles east of Providence, Rhode Island; and 198 miles from New York.

Total Area: 17.36 sq. miles

Land Area: 16.54 sq. miles

Population: 4,237

Density: 256 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Taunton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....25.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.7"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Assonet

Regional Planning Agency

Southeastern Regional Planning and
Economic Development District

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 822-3348

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1735

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	2,492		
Democrats	638	25.6	%
Republicans	324	13.0	%
Other parties	5	0.2	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,525	61.2	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Berkley town, Bristol County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	5,749	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	5,749	100.0
Male.....	2,855	49.7	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	55	1.0
Female.....	2,894	50.3	Mexican.....	3	0.1
Under 5 years.....	449	7.8	Puerto Rican.....	28	0.5
5 to 9 years.....	524	9.1	Cuban.....	2	-
10 to 14 years.....	504	8.8	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	22	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	399	6.9	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	5,694	99.0
20 to 24 years.....	219	3.8	White alone.....	5,522	96.1
25 to 34 years.....	819	14.2	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,249	21.7	Total population.....	5,749	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	813	14.1	In households.....	5,734	99.7
55 to 59 years.....	246	4.3	Householder.....	1,843	32.1
60 to 64 years.....	154	2.7	Spouse.....	1,961	23.7
65 to 74 years.....	231	4.0	Child.....	2,058	35.8
75 to 84 years.....	111	1.9	Own child under 18 years.....	1,595	27.7
85 years and over.....	31	0.5	Other relatives.....	263	4.6
Median age (years).....	34.7	(X)	Under 18 years.....	111	1.9
18 years and over.....	3,998	69.5	Nonrelatives.....	209	3.6
Male.....	1,972	34.3	Unmarried partner.....	102	1.8
Female.....	2,026	35.2	In group quarters.....	15	0.3
21 years and over.....	3,804	66.2	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	451	7.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	15	0.3
65 years and over.....	373	6.5	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	166	2.9	Total households.....	1,843	100.0
Female.....	207	3.6	Family households (families).....	1,567	85.0
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	868	47.1
One race.....	5,685	98.9	Married-couple family.....	1,361	73.8
White.....	5,561	96.7	With own children under 18 years.....	755	41.0
Black or African American.....	32	0.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	139	7.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	8	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	74	4.0
Asian.....	21	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	276	15.0
Asian Indian.....	5	0.1	Householder living alone.....	199	10.8
Chinese.....	7	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	71	3.9
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	946	51.3
Japanese.....	1	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	275	14.9
Korean.....	4	0.1	Average household size.....	3.11	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.35	(X)
Other Asian ¹	4	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	1,885	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,843	97.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	42	2.2
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	2	-	occasional use.....	15	0.8
Some other race.....	61	1.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	64	1.1	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	4.2	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	1,843	100.0
White.....	5,623	97.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,752	95.1
Black or African American.....	47	0.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	91	4.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	32	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.15	(X)
Asian.....	31	0.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.35	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	6	0.1			
Some other race.....	83	1.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The Taunton-Attleboro region, where Berkley is located, has excellent highway facilities. Interstate 495, especially well designed south of Boston, provides access to Interstate 90 to the northwest and to U.S. Route 6, the Mid-Cape Highway, to the southeast. Interstate 95 and the Fall River Expressway (State Route 24) provide access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 24, the Fall River Expressway.

Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Berkley, but the network of intermodal facilities serving eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island is easily accessible.

Bus

Berkley is not affiliated with a regional transit authority.

Other

Myricks Airport, located 3 mi SE of the town, has a 2,000'x 150' turf runway. Instrument approaches available: None. The Taunton Municipal Airport is also easily accessible and has 2 runways: a 3,496'x 75' asphalt runway and a 2,350'x 150' gravel runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.